

Board Agenda Item
May 11, 2005

ADMINISTRATIVE - 1

Approval - Request for Land Dedication for RZ/FDP 2005-DR-006 Adjacent to Wolftrap Creek Stream Valley Park (Dranesville District)

ISSUE:

Approval of staff comments pertaining to the Rezoning/Final Development Plan application for RZ/FDP 2005-DR-006, Moutoux Assemblage; located on Tax Map: 19-1 ((3)) 2Z; 19-3 ((1)) 5, 8, 9Z pt., 11A, 42Z adjacent to Wolftrap Creek Stream Valley Park. The RZ/FDP shows 63 houses on 69.17 acres.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends Park Authority Board approval of the following summary comments regarding RZ/FDP 2005-DR-006, Moutoux Assemblage:

- The Park Authority requests that the applicant dedicate a portion of the site (approximately 16 acres) to the Park Authority (Attachment 2). This area of the site would not affect any lots or lot sizes on the property but would provide a valuable link between two portions of stream valley parkland west of the property.
- The developer should include low impact development features to mitigate the impact of the untreated flow on Wolftrap Creek.

(This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on May 4, 2005, and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)

TIMING:

Board action is requested on May 11, 2005. It is anticipated that the Planning Commission will review this item on September 22, 2005.

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BACKGROUND:

This site is located in the central portion of Dranesville Supervisory District southwest of the intersection of Beulah Road and Leesburg Pike. The property is adjacent to Wolftrap Stream Valley Park. The site plan submitted by the developer includes 63 houses; most areas indicated as open space consist of steep slopes adjacent to Wolftrap Creek and the existing parkland. This open space adjacent to Wolftrap Creek Stream Valley Park including a small portion of road frontage on Golden Grove Road (approximately 16 acres) should be dedicated to the Park Authority.

The proposal identifies a number of trails on the land to be dedicated to the Park Authority. These trails would be redesigned to minimize impact on natural resources and meet Park Authority trail standards.

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is anticipated that the additional acreage would be managed as a portion of the larger Stream Valley Park system. This type of park requires less intensive management and thus the inclusion of this portion of stream valley would not have a significant impact on Park Authority resources.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Vicinity Map – Moutoux Assemblage

Attachment 2: Reduced Development Plan – Moutoux Property (Showing the area proposed to be dedicated to the Park Authority)

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Deputy Director

Lynn S. Tadlock, Director, Planning and Development Division

Kirk Holley, Manager, Planning and Land Management Branch

Jesse Rounds, Planner, Planning and Land Management Branch

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ACTION - 1

Approval - Revisions to the By-Laws Governing the Fairfax County Park Authority of Fairfax County, Virginia

This information item provides all Board members with written notification of proposed changes to the By-Laws, for decision on the proposed changes by vote of the majority of the Authority's members on May 11, 2005.

With the assignment of membership to Standing Committees of the Board, several issues regarding specific language in the BY-LAWS GOVERNING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA AS REVISED AND ADOPTED MAY 19, 1981, came into question. Specifically, it was noted that the By-Laws state that regular meetings are held "on the first and third Tuesdays of each month", while it is the current practice of the Board to hold regular meetings on the second and forth Wednesdays of each month with certain exceptions.

The chairman of the Administration and Management Committee called a meeting on April 13, 2005, to address revisions to the language in the By-Laws. It was the expressed desire of all Board members present to make the following changes to these sections:

Article III – Committees

Section II – Standing Committees

Standing Committees shall be composed of not more than seven members of whom at least ~~three~~ *four* shall be members of the Authority.

Article IV – Meetings

Section I – Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Authority shall be held in Fairfax County ~~on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and at such other times as may be necessary to conduct effectively the business of the Authority~~ *a minimum of twenty times per year* at a place and time to be determined by the Authority.

Article IV – Meetings

Section III – Quorums

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~~A majority of the appointed members present shall constitute a quorum at meetings of Standing and Special Committees. Discussions may proceed at Standing and Special Committees when three or more Authority members are present. A majority of the appointed members present shall constitute a quorum at meetings of Standing and Special Committees for business requiring a vote.~~

Also, with regard to Article IV – Meetings, Section III – Quorums, a prior change was approved and documented by addendum. On March 24, 1992, the Park Authority Board voted to amend the Bylaws, Article IV, Section III-Quorums, to reflect the expansion of the Park Authority Board from ten to twelve members. The By-Laws were amended to read as follows:

Section III - Quorums

Seven members of the Authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings. A majority of the appointed members present shall constitute a quorum at meetings of Standing and Special Committees.

The Park Authority Director recommends the Park Authority Board incorporate any revisions to the By-Laws resulting from the Board's decision on May 11, 2005, together with otherwise unaffected language from the March 24, 1992, change into the document entitled BY-LAWS GOVERNING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA AS REVISED AND ADOPTED MAY 11, 2005.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Proposed Amendments to the Appendix 4 Park Authority By-laws, BY-LAWS GOVERNING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA AS REVISED AND ADOPTED MAY 19, 1981

Attachment 2: Excerpt from the Fairfax County Park Authority Minutes dated March 24, 1992, Page 5, A-2 Amendment of Park Authority By-Laws

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy White, Deputy Director

Miriam Morrison, Director, Administration Division

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ACTION - 2

Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Request – Greenbriar Civic Association – Rocky Run Stream Valley (Springfield District)

ISSUE:

Approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from the Greenbriar Civic Association in the amount of \$826.84 for the installation of physical fitness stations along the trail system in the Rocky Run Stream Valley.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from the Greenbriar Civic Association in the amount of \$826.84 for the installation of three physical fitness stations along the trail system in the Rocky Run Stream Valley. **(This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on May 4, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)**

TIMING:

Board action is requested on May 11, 2005, in order to award the grant.

BACKGROUND:

This project is a Girl Scout Gold Award project sponsored by the Civic Association and members of Girl Scout Troop 1214 and the Chantilly High School National Honor Society will provide the labor. The estimated one-hundred (100) hours of in-kind services form the matching portion of the grant.

The project is a continuation of previously successful fitness stations constructed by the Association through Mastenbrook grants. Park Authority Area 5 staff has provided technical guidance to the Association and the Girl Scouts to ensure that construction will be to Park Authority specifications.

The Greenbriar Civic Association will assume maintenance of the improvements with guidance from Park Authority staff. The Girl Scout Gold Award candidate will prepare a photographic journal of the project and provide a project completion report.

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Matching funds are available to complete this project. The applicant will coordinate the project with appropriate Park Authority staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated total project cost is \$826.84. Funds are currently available in the amount of \$826.84 in Project 004769, Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program in Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund; and in-kind labor donations from the Girl Scouts and the Chantilly High School National Honor Society resulting in total available funding of \$826.84.

Contingent on the approval of this project, the remaining balance in the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program will be \$32,515.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Application
Form – Greenbriar Civic Association

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director
Timothy K. White, Deputy Director
Brian Daly, Director, Park Operations Division
Dan Sutherland, Manager, Grounds Management Branch
Matt Devor, Assistant Manager, Area 5 Management

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ACTION - 3

Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Request – West Springfield Little League – Byron Avenue Park (Lee District)

ISSUE:

Approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from the West Springfield Little League in the amount of \$10,000 for the upgrade of the perimeter athletic field fencing and backstops on five ball diamonds at Byron Avenue Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from the West Springfield Little League in the amount of \$10,000 for the upgrade of perimeter fence and backstops on five diamond fields at Byron Avenue Park. **(This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on May 4, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)**

TIMING:

Board action is requested on May 11, 2005, in order to award the grant.

BACKGROUND:

The existing fencing and backstops on the fields at Byron Avenue Park are over fifteen (15) years old and are sorely in need of renovation. Repairs and patch work to the existing fencing is no longer sufficient to extend its life expectancy, and requires replacement. The West Springfield Little League (WSLL) has been a Full Adoption partner with the Park Authority since 1995. In the last ten (10) years, WSLL has donated countless hours of volunteer work and funds toward the improvements of the fields at Byron Avenue Park. The league has shown tremendous dedication and is a valued partner.

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The renovation of the fencing at this park is long overdue. By leveraging League donations, the Mastenbrook Grants fund and a portion of the Park Operations Division's annual operating funds, replacement of the fencing can occur quickly. West Springfield Little League is hosting the District 9 Little League Fun Tournament in July of 2005. This tournament draws competitors and spectators from both Fairfax and Prince William Counties. A grant award at this time will allow fencing work to occur prior to this event; as well as provide an improved facility year-round for the baseball players in this part of the County.

Park Authority Area 4 staff has worked with WSLI in the conceptual and schematic phase of the project, and will manage the construction of the new fencing through existing contracts.

Matching funds are available to complete this project. The applicant will coordinate the project with appropriate Park Authority staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated total project cost is \$23,010. Funds are currently available in the amount of \$10,000 in Project 004769, Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program in Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund; \$3,010 in Project 005009-Park Authority Athletic Field Maintenance in Fund 303; and \$10,000 in funds from West Springfield Little League.

Contingent on the approval of this project, the remaining balance in the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program will be \$22,515.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Application
Form – West Springfield Little League

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Deputy Director

Brian Daly, Director, Park Operations Division

Dan Sutherland, Manager, Grounds Management Branch

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ACTION - 4

Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Request – Sully Station II Community Association – Cub Run Stream Valley (Sully District)

ISSUE:

Approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from the Sully Station II Community Association in the amount of \$10,000 for the replacement of a playground adjacent to the Sully Station II Community in the Cub Run Stream Valley.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from the Sully Station II Community Association in the amount of \$10,000 for the replacement of a playground in the Cub Run Stream Valley. **(This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on May 4, 2005 and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)**

TIMING:

Board action is requested on May 11, 2005, in order to award the grant.

BACKGROUND:

This project is the result of a cooperative effort between Park Authority staff and the Sully Station II Community Association. The existing playground was constructed as part of the housing development approximately fifteen (15) years ago and proffered to the Park Authority. However, it has been maintained by the Community Association during that time.

The existing playground is constructed of wood and is out of date. The Community Association is proposing to replace the playground using their funds and is requesting a Mastenbrook Grant to offset a portion of the replacement costs. Staff from Area 5 has worked directly with the Association to facilitate a playground design that meets all safety specifications and provides significant play value for the residents of the community.

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Area 5 staff will work throughout the construction process with the Association and their contractor to ensure compliance with all appropriate permits and will perform a safety inspection upon completion of the playground.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated total project cost is \$59,696. Funds are currently available in the amount of \$10,000 in Project 004769, Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program in Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund; and \$49,696 from the Sully Station II Community Association, resulting in total available funding of \$59,626.

Contingent on the approval of this project, the remaining balance in the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program will be \$12,515.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Application
Form – Sully Station II Community Association

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director
Timothy K. White, Deputy Director
Brian Daly, Director, Park Operations Division
Dan Sutherland, Manager, Grounds Management Branch
Matt Devor, Assistant Manager, Area 5 Management

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ACTION – 5

Park Naming – Joseph F. Barnes Battery Park (Mason District)

ISSUE:

Approval of the naming of parkland at Tax Map #72-1 ((6)) 0036 as "Joseph F. Barnes Battery Park."

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends that the Park Authority Board approve the naming of the parkland at Tax Map #72-1 ((6)) 0036 as "Joseph F. Barnes Battery Park." **(This item was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on May 4, 2005, and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)**

TIMING:

Board action is requested on May 11, 2005, to meet the requirements of the sales contract.

BACKGROUND:

The subject property identified as Tax Map #72-1 ((6)) 0036 was acquired from Joan Barnes at a discounted price on December 28, 2004. This 3.95-acre parcel is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Brookside Drive in the Mason District. In consideration for the reduced price and as stipulated in the sales contract, Ms. Barnes requested that this site or another park site or facility be named after her deceased father, Joseph F. Barnes.

Staff has confirmed that the property was the site of a Civil War battery (artillery outpost). The Union battery at this site was built to defend the crossing of Turkeycock Run on Route 236 and is known only as the Route 236 Civil War Battery. Additionally, the property is identified as the Native American site of a cobble quarry where cobbles were mined to make stone tools. There is no known name of historical or archaeological significance associated with this property.

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In accordance with Park Authority Policy 106 – Naming of Parks, the naming of this property as the “Joseph F. Barnes Battery Park” conforms to the conditions of the policy. In memory of her father, Ms. Barnes made a generous contribution to the Park Authority by reducing the purchase price of the 3.95-acre piece of land by more than 25%. The proposed name memorializes her late father and also indicates the nature of the historically significant land use.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Location Map – Tax Map #72-1 ((6)) 0036

Attachment 2: Park Policy 106 – Naming of Parks

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Deputy Director

Lynn S. Tadlock, Director, Planning and Development Division

Kay H. Rutledge, Manager, Land Acquisition and Management Branch

Douglas A. Petersen, Senior Right-of-Way Agent

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ACTION - 6

Renaming of Green Spring Gardens Park to Green Spring Gardens (Mason District)

ISSUE:

Approval of the renaming of Green Spring Gardens Park to Green Spring Gardens.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the renaming of Green Spring Gardens Park to Green Spring Gardens in accordance with Policy 106 Naming of Parks. **(This item was reviewed by the Resource Management Committee meeting on April 27, 2005, and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)**

TIMING:

Board action is requested on May 11, 2005, to maintain front entrance project schedule.

BACKGROUND:

Green Spring Gardens is a 28-acre site in Mason District planned as a countywide facility with the dual purposes of maintaining demonstration gardens and preserving a historic house and garden. Green Spring's audience has grown steadily over the last several years, with nearly twice as many visitors today as visited the gardens 5 years ago.

Visitors frequently misunderstand the purpose of the demonstration gardens and try to use the facility for unsuitable activities. The word 'park' to some implies that active recreation is acceptable at Green Spring, when this is not the case. Mountain biking, soccer games, operation of model cars and airplanes, football, and even karate and taekwon do practices have taken place within the gardens. The rules and regulations signs posted within the park prohibit these type of activities, but staff feel that removing the word 'park' will send a clearer message.

Professional and garden visitors often misunderstand the nature of Green Spring and assume that there are limited gardens if any. Most public gardens and botanic gardens do not incorporate the word 'park' because it implies that the facility is either a site for active recreation or a pastoral/natural area. Green Spring is designed and maintained as a demonstration garden with nearly 8 acres of carefully maintained landscape.

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Eliminating the word “park” from the name is also more in keeping with professional terminology to refer to Green Spring as a public garden or demonstration garden. Similar facilities include:

Airlie Gardens (New Hanover County, NC)
Alta Vista Gardens (San Diego County, CA)
Annmarie Garden (Calvert County, MD)
Bartram’s Garden (Philadelphia, PA)
Brookside Gardens (Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning)
Callaway Gardens (Pine Mountain, GA)
Descanso Gardens (La Canada, CA)
Dow Gardens (Midland, MI)
Elizabethan Gardens (Manteo, NC)
Hidden Lake Gardens (Tipton, MI)
Inniswood Metro Gardens (Westerville, OH)

In consideration of this item, staff discussed this proposal with the Friends of Green Spring and has their full support. The Friends of Green Spring actually began utilizing the shortened name ‘Green Spring Gardens’ in their newsletter and promotional materials several years ago. With the completion of the new entrance road project, a new entrance sign on Braddock Road will be fabricated. The name Green Spring Gardens will be paired with the Park Authority logo on the entrance sign which staff feels will identify Green Spring Gardens as a part of the publicly managed Fairfax County Park Authority system.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:
Attachment 1: Policy 106 - Naming of Parks

STAFF:
Michael A. Kane, Director
Timothy K. White, Deputy Director
Cindy Messinger, Director, Resource Management Division
Chris Strand, Manager, Green Spring Gardens Park

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INFORMATION - 1

Park Authority Stewardship Update

The purpose of the Stewardship Update is to provide information on current natural resource issues, to highlight projects of note and to provide updates on activities related to the implementation of the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). This includes both Park Authority specific and countywide activities. Areas of emphasis include:

- Education on current issues.
- Status of projects of note.
- Items of note from the NRMP implementation plan as appropriate. The NRMP first year initiatives will be reported in its own document similar to the Strategic Plan Annual Accomplishments.

The name of this quarterly update has been changed to 'Stewardship Update' from 'Environmental Issues Update' to reflect a more encompassing focus and to emphasize Stewardship.

(This item was reviewed by the Resource Management Committee on April 27, 2005, and approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.)

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Park Authority Stewardship Update dated April 2005

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Deputy Director

Cindy Messinger, Director, Resource Management Division

Lynn Tadlock, Director, Planning and Development Division

Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division

Brian Daly, Director, Park Operations Division